

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

DHA-02 /070 W

----- 115090

R 250830Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 681

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9827

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: MORE ON POLITICAL PRISONERS

REFS: A. ADDIS ABABA 9790 B. ADDIS ABABA 9802

1. GOOD SOURCE WITH ACCESS STATES THAT OF 209 "POLITICAL PRISONERS" (REF A) ONLY 9 WERE "POLITICAL" AND HE NAMED FORMER GOJJAM MINISTER HAILE MARIAM KEBEDE, FORMER MINLAND REFORM FITAWARI ABEBE GEBRE, AND CONFIRMED 4 NAMES LISTED REF A. APPROXIMATELY 160 TO 170 OF THOSE RELEASED WERE STUDENTS ARRESTED DURING MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION, AND REMAINDER WERE WIVES OF OLD ORDER FIGURES.

2. SOURCE STATES THAT APPROXIMATELY 1,000 MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS WILL BE RELEASED BEFORE REVOLUTION DAY (SEPT. 12). POLITICAL PRISONERS, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, ARE BEING SEPARATED INTO THREE GROUPS FOR "RE-EDUCATION". THOSE NEEDING LONG-TERM RE-EDUCATION WILL BE MOVED TO GODE DETENTION CAMP FOLLOWING REVOLUTION DAY.

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3. SOURCE CONTENDS THAT DIRG HAS DECIDED TO RELEASE PRISONERS
BECAUSE OF ADVERSE REACTION IN CERTAIN WESTERN COUNTRIES,
PARTICULARLY SWEDEN, TO EPMG ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
SOURCE DOES NOT BELIEVE US SENATE HEARINGS WERE A MAJOR
FACTOR IN DIRG DECISION.
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Message Attributes

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